

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2559

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

S E C R E T PARAMARIBO 0337

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU, NS

SUBJ: CUBANS IN SURINAM

REF : GEORGETOWN 0681

1. EMBASSY PARAMARIBO HAS NOW HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VERIFY THE INFO IN PARA 7 REFTEL. A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO HAS GOOD ACCESS TO THE FACTS INFORMED EMBASSY AS FOLLOWS:

2. TWO CUBANS WERE PEREZ MORENO MIQUEL, BORN HAVANA OCT 31, 1939, DIPL. PASSPORT D 75-2300, THIRD SECRETARY, AND KINDELAN RIVERA SEGIO, BORN HAVANA DEC 9, 1941, SERVICE PASSPORT E-75-7320, "DRIVER", BOTH FROM CUBAN EMBASSY GEORGETOWN. SOURCE EMPHASIZED QUOTES AROUND "DRIVER" AND SAID IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT "DRIVER CARRIED THE MONEY AND PAID THE BILLS. SINCE GOS HAD INSTRUCTED AIRPORT AUTHORITIES TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ALL PERSONS FROM "COMMUNIST" COUNTRIES WHOSE VISITS HAVE NOT BEEN ARRANGED IN ADVANCE, TWO CUBANS WERE INITIALLY REFUSED AT ZANDERIJ. THEY TELEPHONED SYMPATHETIC CONTACTS IN PARAMARIBO, NOTABLY ROBIN RAVALES, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF BRUMA'S PNR PARTY AND PRO-CUBA. MATTER WAS REFERRED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO, UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE, DECIDED TO PERMIT ENTRY. CUBANS THEN FLEW BACK FROM FRENCH GUYANA TO PARAMARIBO.

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3. CUBANS CLAIMED THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN VISITING PARAMARIBO WAS TO PLACE ORDERS FOR AUTOMOBILES, WHICH THEY FOUND UNAVAILABLE IN GEORGETOWN; THEY ACTUALLY VISITED 5 OR 6 CAR DEALERS HANDLING EUROPEAN, JAPANESE AND AMERICAN CARS, AND ALLEGEDLY PLACED AN ORDER FOR A MERCEDES FOR DELIVERY IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS. THE CUBANS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ARRON, BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

4. COMMENT: WITH HIGH-LEVEL FRIENDS THAT THEY HAVE HERE AND PREVIOUS INTIMATIONS THAT IT WAS IRREGULAR WAY IN WHICH THEY WENT ABOUT ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH GOS THAT MADE APPOINTMENTS WITH PRIME MINISTER OR OTHER OFFICIALS IMPOSSIBLE, IT IS SURPRISING TO US THAT CUBANS DO NOT TAKE GOS AT ITS WORD AND PUT IT ON THE SPOT BY ASKING FOR VISAS FOR AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO COME AND DISCUSS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. COULD IT BE THAT THIS WOULD OFFEND THEIR GUYANESE HOSTS? ZURHELLEN

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NNN

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